

DODD'S FINANCES TO BE G.O.P. ISSUE

Charges on Fund-Raising
to Figure in Campaign

By WILLIAM E. FARRELL

Special to The New York Times

NEW HAVEN, April 27 —

The controversy in Washington over the financial affairs of Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, is providing political ammunition for Connecticut Republicans.

The Republican state chairman, A. Searle Pinney, when asked today whether the Dodd situation would become an issue in the forthcoming gubernatorial and Congressional campaigns, replied: "Oh, yes."

Mr. Pinney said that many people throughout the state he had talked to had "expressed shock" about the charges. He added that there was concern "amongst people like myself that this sort of things seriously undermines public confidence in campaign giving."

Tax Requirements

The Senate Ethics Committee and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, at Senator Dodd's request, are looking into charges made in a series of columns by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson. Included are charges that the Senator diverts to his personal use funds that had ostensibly been raised for campaign expenses.

Under rulings of the Internal Revenue Service, campaign funds used for personal expense must be reported as income and are taxable.

Senator Dodd's associates have insisted that the more than \$100,000 raised at dinners in 1961, 1963, 1964 and 1965 were to be regarded as individual, tax-free gifts to be used by the Senator at his discretion to defray either campaign deficits or other "political expenses."

However, Senator Dodd has said that he has made no statement on the matter of testi-

monial dinners to the Senate Ethics Committee, nor has he "authorized any such statement in my behalf."

Mr. Pinney said persons who had attended several of the testimonial dinners for Senator Dodd told him "almost to a man, 'I didn't think I was contributing to anything other than a political operation, and I certainly wasn't out to line someone's pocket.'"

During recent weeks Mr. Pinney has written to Mr. Dodd, urging him to refute the Pearson-Anderson allegation, and to Connecticut's Democratic Governor, John N. Dempsey, requesting him to speak out on the controversy. Thus far Mr. Pinney has received no responses.

Connecticut Democratic leaders, although pained by the sit-

uation, are saying only that the rank-and-file Democrats are solidly behind Senator Dodd.

Some evidence of this was shown Sunday when the Senator spoke at a Knights of Columbus meeting in New Britain, Conn. The 650 persons who attended gave him a standing ovation.

In another development, it was learned that an automobile that had been lent to Senator Dodd by Dunbar Associates of Newington, a firm that specializes in relocating businesses, had been returned. The automobile had figures in a Pearson-Anderson column.

David P. Dunbar, head of the company, said that the car had been returned "quite a while ago" and that it had been "loaned strictly on a personal basis."

STATINTL